

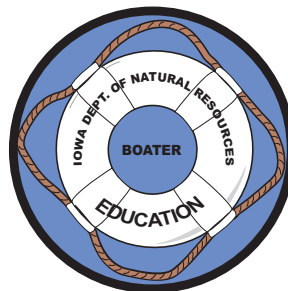
Iowa Recreational Activities Incident Report



January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004



Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Jeffrey R. Vonk, Director
March 2005



2004 Iowa Recreational Activities Incident Report

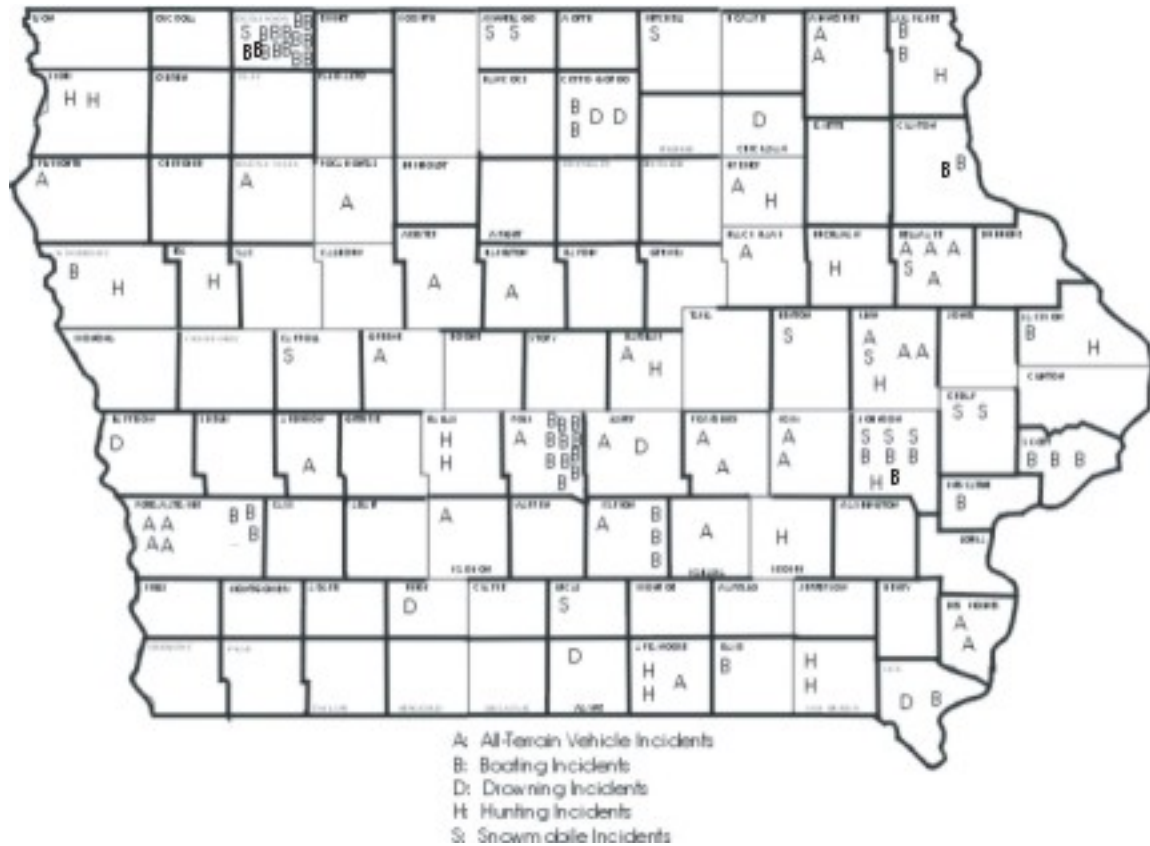


Prepared by:
Rod Slings
Recreational Safety Programs Supervisor
Law Enforcement Bureau
and
Megan Wisecup
Administrative Assistant
Law Enforcement Bureau



Jeffrey R. Vonk, Director
Lowell Joslin, Law Enforcement Bureau Chief
Randy Edwards, Law Enforcement Bureau Assistant Chief

2004 All Recreational Activities Incidents by County



2004 Safety Education Class Information



Conservation Officers play a key role in educating and training individuals to enjoy the out-of-doors safely. Along with a corps of dedicated and highly motivated volunteer instructors, the following educational opportunities were provided:

Education Program	Students Certified	Classes Conducted
Hunter Education	12,737	385
Boating Education	1,468 (849 on-line)	20
Snowmobile Education	394	37
Bow Hunter Education	205	8
ATV Education	26	9
Fur Harvester Education	15	3
Totals	14,845	462



2004 Hunting Season Summary

Words from Marty Eby – District One RSO

Once again fall has left us in the past with little to show. We had the perfect recipe for disaster in parts of Northwest Iowa this fall as heavy rainfall hit the area in the middle of September and reduced an already low pheasant population. Our bird numbers were down considerably and then the birds we had we subjected to 8 days of straight rain in September and they could not survive. The low bird numbers were evident due to the

numbers and success of upland bird hunters that showed up. It was the worst upland hunting in several years.



However, with lots of rain it should bring lots of waterfowl. Once again we were wrong in our assumption as the fall was less than stellar even though our wetland complexes were over flowing with water all fall and stayed open until the very end. In checking with several contacts the birds all stayed in the Dakota's and became big, fat and happy before flying straight south to Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

One bright spot was the deer hunting was steady as always. Most hunters were able to harvest at least one deer if not more. The number of big deer that were taken was about the same.

The next few weeks should allow people to get out and harvest some rabbits and squirrels as our numbers have rebounded more than likely due to the West Nile Virus. In closing, I have to say that the worst day hunting or fishing beats the best day of work.

Words from Pat Jorgensen – District Two RSO

The 2004 hunting season in Northeast Iowa was good for most. Duck hunters had their days but the mild weather put a damper on the season. Pheasant hunting was slow at start but late season hunters did well throughout northeast Iowa. As I checked deer hunters this fall I would run into the hunter looking for the trophy and the one that was willing to take any deer to put venison on the table. With the liberal licenses I saw many does harvested this year along with several nice bucks being taken. Mild weather made it

tough for some as the deer herds were spread out into CRP and crop fields, however, patients prevailed for most hunters. The weather was also favorable for trapping season and officers told me they checked more trappers this year than in past.

This season was a busy one for the Conservation Officers once again. There were numbers of TIP (Turn-in-Poachers) reports and several good cases were made. Cases included everything from illegal taking of protected species to deer and trapping violations. It is unfortunate that illegal acts such as these occur each year but through continued education and working together with ethical sportsman like you we can minimize the impact on our resources. Hunt Safely!



Words from Dale Anderson – District Three RS0

The fall 2004 hunting season in southwest Iowa was very good – or very poor – depending on what you prefer to hunt. In terms of waterfowl hunting, it was a disastrous year. Despite the fact that Riverton Wildlife Area had the most waterfowl of any public area in the state, most hunters there experienced very poor hunting. The weather was awful for waterfowl hunting. Warmth and blue sky days dominated the pattern for most of the season. With those conditions, the birds had no reason to leave the refuge to eat. Also, there was negligible snow goose hunting last spring due to the majority of the flight moving westerly away from the state border. The combination of those factors made a miserable season for avid waterfowlers.

The pheasant season was decent in southwest Iowa. We had our usual number of hunting opportunities with the success being at or just above average for the past few years. There seemed to be good compliance with the new hunter orange requirement which kept hunting incident numbers low. I heard very few complaints regarding that rule.

What can you say about the deer season? I think that everyone who wanted to fill their freezer with venison had ample opportunity to do so. It seemed that in this part of the state the buck/doe ratio is improving. We seem to be seeing more bucks than usual. I'm not quite sure what that means but I would like to think that it is a positive sign. Time will tell!

Words from Craig Jackson – District Four Supervisor

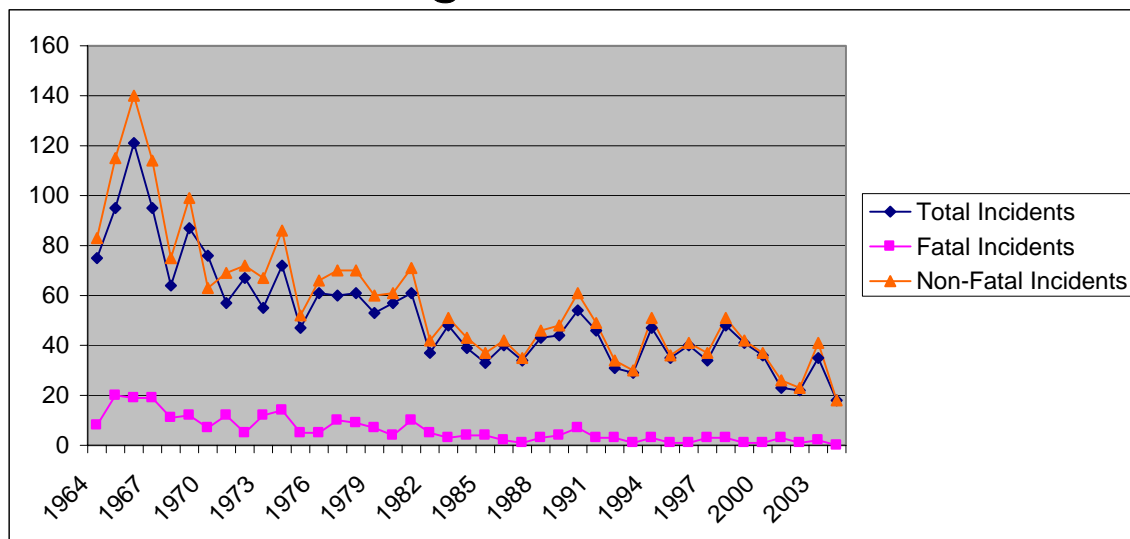
The duck hunting in southeast Iowa was not very good this year. Not many ducks came down the Mississippi flyway. There were a good number of geese this fall and hunters were successful. Two swans were killed at Goose Lake in Clinton County this past fall and the responsible party was cited and paid fines and restitution as well as forfeiture of the firearm. The pheasant season was slow with the numbers lower than the past couple of years.

The deer season was busy as is normal in southeast Iowa. If a hunter was willing to take a doe, then they were successful. There are many hunters that want to shoot a buck first and then will settle for a doe later in their season. Sometimes that opportunity doesn't present itself once the deer are hunted for a time. Officers are encountering many alcohol related violations while checking hunters and they also made several spotlighting cases this past fall. Officers have also encountered several felons hunting illegally as well. The majority of the deer season in December was fairly mild weather with little or no snow, so the deer were more scattered and not in the timber which made it more difficult to harvest. Most of the antlerless licenses for the counties in southeast Iowa were sold out and the deer harvest should be greater than last year's record harvest.

Words from Allen Crouse – District Six RSO

The 2004 hunting season seemed to be as busy as ever. It was good to see so much blaze orange in the field on opening weekend of pheasant season. I did not have to tell one person about having to wear hunter orange for hunting upland game this year. I think the public agreed with the new law. I think the numbers of incidents we had this year speak for themselves. This was the lowest year ever! I know that the new blaze orange law saved several people from being shot this year.

Iowa Hunting Incidents 1964 - 2004



IOWA SETS NEW HUNTING SAFETY RECORD

The 2004 hunting season in Iowa was the safest on record with 17 hunting related injuries and zero fatalities. The investigation into a fatality, initially thought was hunting related was determined by the Polk County Medical Examiner to have been a suicide.

Rod Slings, recreation safety program supervisor with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources said he credits hard work by the 1,800 volunteer hunter education instructors and the new blaze orange requirement as the biggest factors

“This has been a long time goal of the department and while one injury is too many, having a year with no fatalities is tremendous,” Slings said. Much of the hunter education course is taken from investigations into hunting incidents. The DNR began tracking hunting related incidents in 1964.

The number one cause of hunting related injuries is swinging on game or shooting at running deer.

“We are now seeing hunting incidents become news because they are so few,” he said. “And I believe that can be traced directly to the requirement of hunter education.”

The Iowa legislature passed a law requiring hunters born after Jan. 1, 1967, to successfully complete a hunter education course. Each year, another 12,000 to 15,000 hunters receive safety training in the courses. “Hunting is part of our heritage and is an important tradition in our state. Anytime a hunter hears of an incident happening, they will be reminded of how much safer they are in the field today than when all this started 40 years ago,” Slings said. “Hunting is a safe activity and is getting safer.”



2004 All-Terrain Vehicle Incident Summary



Definition of a DNR Reportable All-Terrain Vehicle Incident

All of the All-Terrain Vehicle statistics reflect only incidents reported to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. These statistics include those deemed a DNR reportable incident and a small number of private property incidents that were submitted to the bureau. The Iowa Department of Transportation also maintains records of such incidents but keeps separate records.

321I.11 Accident reports

If an all-terrain vehicle is involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to anyone or property damage amounting to one thousand dollars or more, either the operator or someone acting for the operator shall immediately notify the county sheriff or another law enforcement agency in the state. **If the accident occurred on public land or ice under the jurisdiction of the commission (Iowa DNR), the operator shall file with the commission a report of the accident, within seventy-two hours, containing information as the commission may require.** All other accidents shall be reported as required in section 321.266.

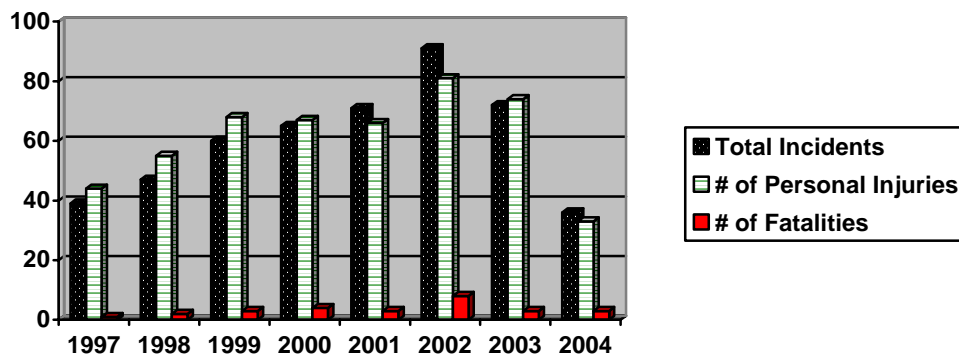
Incident Recap

As the year 2004 came to a close we had a total of 36 all-terrain vehicle incidents reported to the commission (Iowa DNR). There were 33 personal injury incidents reported and 3 fatalities. Of the 3 fatalities all of the operators died from asphyxiation and/or head trauma. There were 26 students who took ATV Education this year and 9 classes conducted. Of the 36 incidents only 5.5% had safety certificates. This left 55.5% of the operators without certification and 39% whose certification status was unknown.

The counties with the most reported All-Terrain Vehicle incidents this year were Pottawattamie and Delaware Counties both with 4. Linn County came in second with 3 reported incidents and Marshall, Des Moines, Iowa and Poweshiek Counties tied for third with 2 reported incidents. The leading cause of incidents in Iowa again this year was machine rollovers. The most common injuries multiple injuries followed by bruises and scrapes. There were 2 known incidents involving alcohol this year.

Operators between the ages of 21 to 30 caused most of the reported incidents. That age group recorded a total of 12 incidents (33%) out of the total 36 incidents. Ages 10 and under recorded a total of 6 incidents (17%) and ages 11-15 and 41-50 recorded a total of 5 incidents each (14%). Ages 8, 40 and 63 represent the reported fatalities that occurred this year.

All-Terrain Vehicle Incidents 1997 – 2004

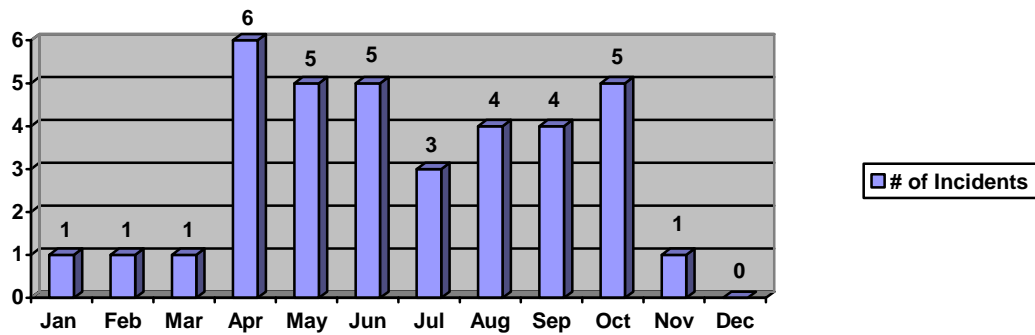


Year	Total Incidents	# of Personal Injuries	# of Fatalities
1997	39	44	1
1998	47	55	2
1999	60	68	3
2000	65	67	4
2001	71	66	3
2002	91	81	8
2003	72	74	3
2004	36	33	3

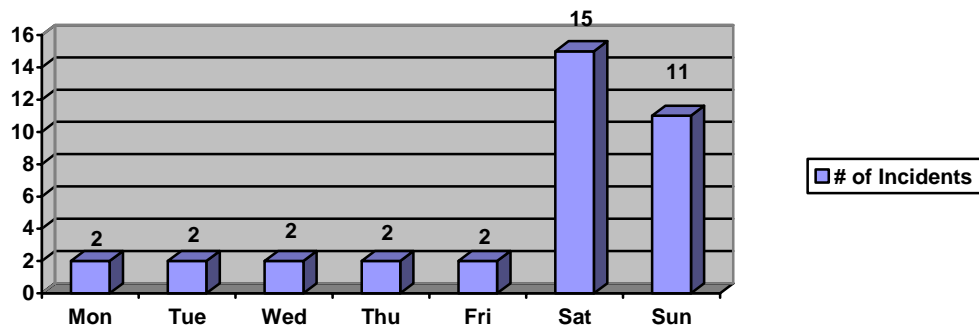
2004 All-Terrain Incidents by County

County	# of Incidents	County	# of Incidents
Appanoose	1	Madison	1
Audubon	1	Mahaska	1
Black Hawk	1	Marion	1
Bremer	1	Marshall	2
Buena Vista	1	Plymouth	1
Delaware	4	Pocahontas	1
Des Moines	2	Polk	1
Greene	1	Pottawattamie	4
Hamilton	1	Poweshiek	2
Iowa	2	Webster	1
Jasper	1	Winnebago	2
Linn	3	Total	36

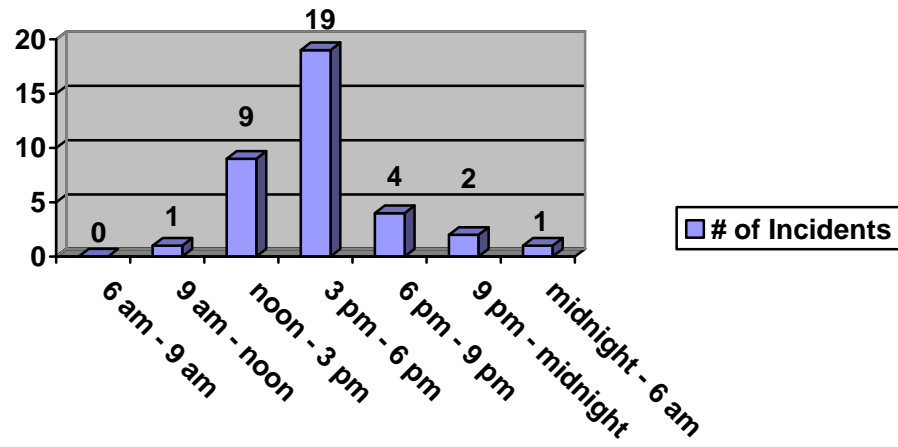
2004 All-Terrain Vehicle Incidents by Month



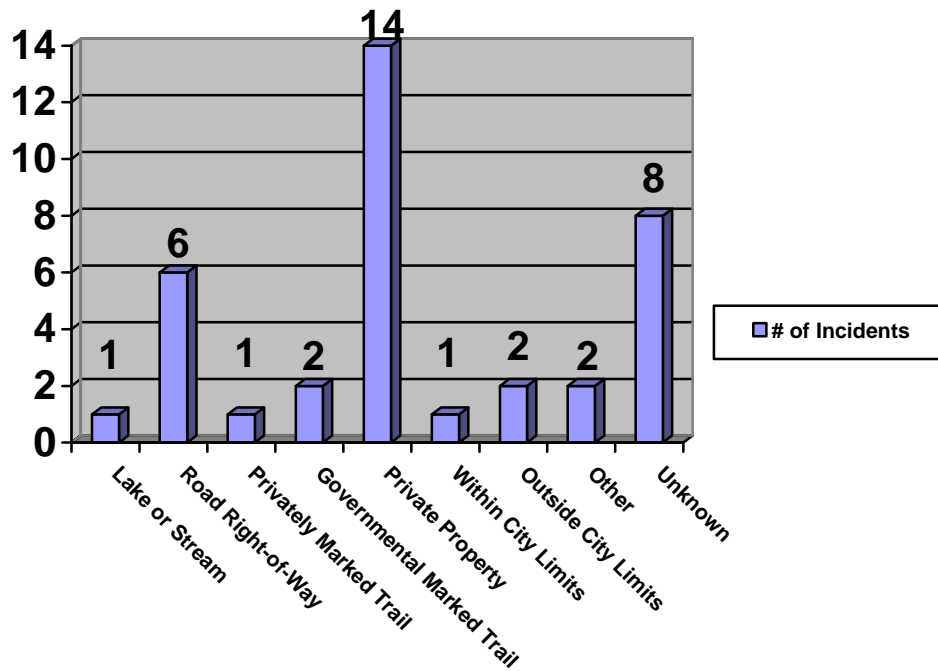
2004 All-Terrain Vehicle Incidents by Day



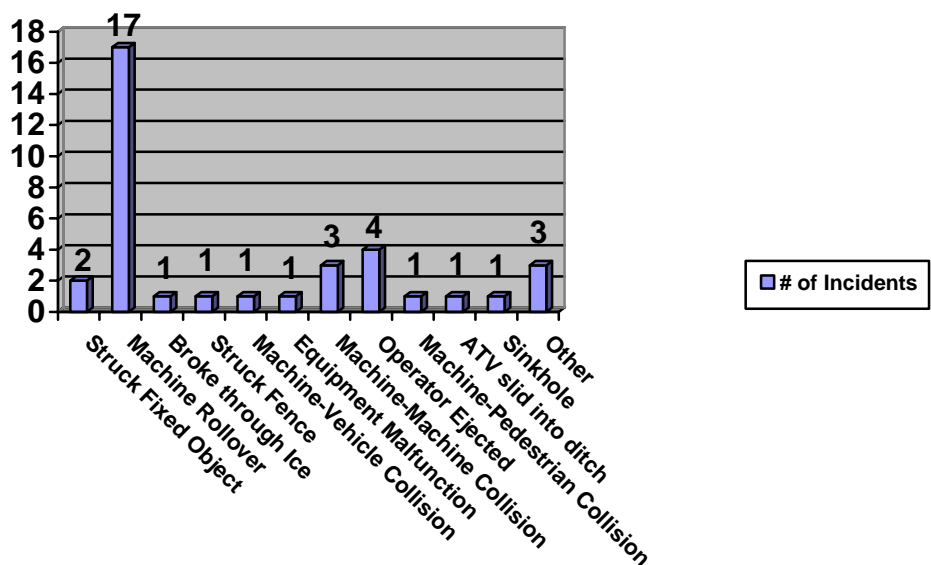
2004 All-Terrain Vehicle Incidents by Time



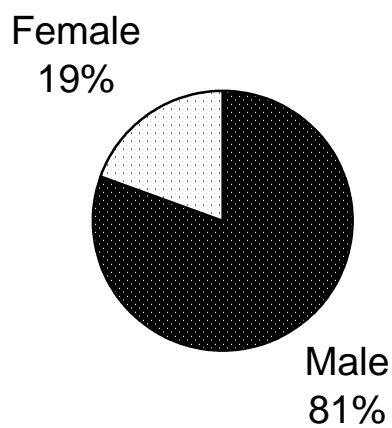
2004 All-Terrain Vehicle Incidents by Types of Terrain



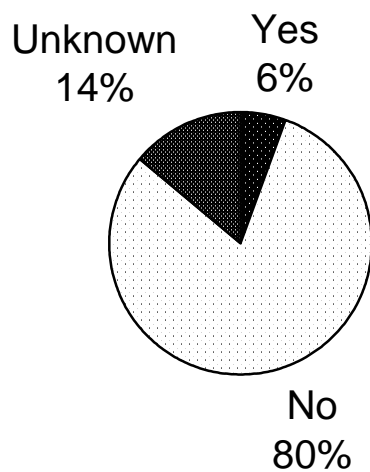
2004 All-Terrain Vehicle by Incident Type



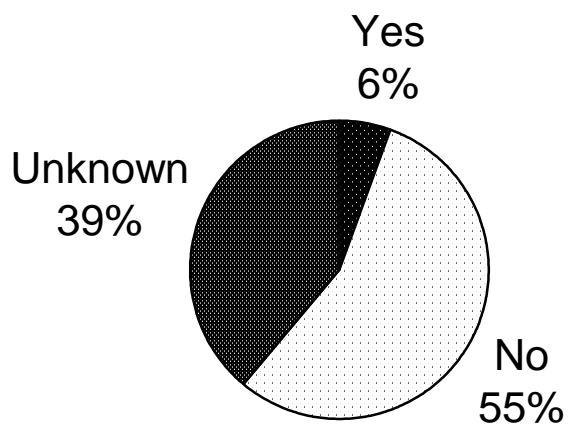
2004 All-Terrain Vehicle Incidents by Gender



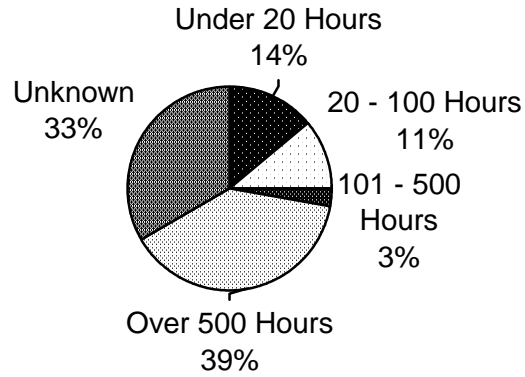
2004 All-Terrain Vehicle Incidents Involving Alcohol



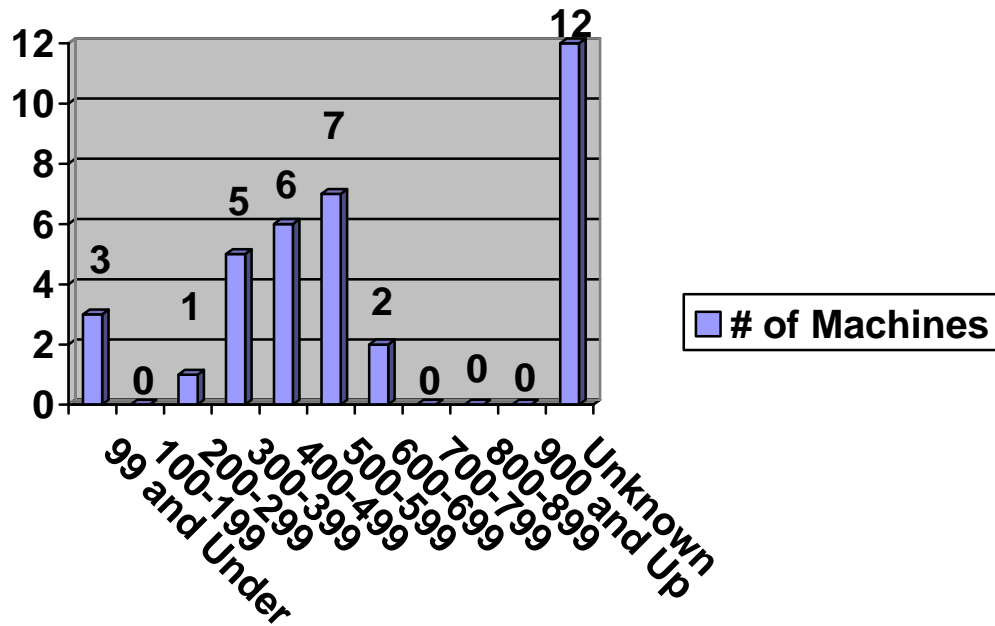
2004 All-Terrain Vehicle Incidents with Safety Certificates



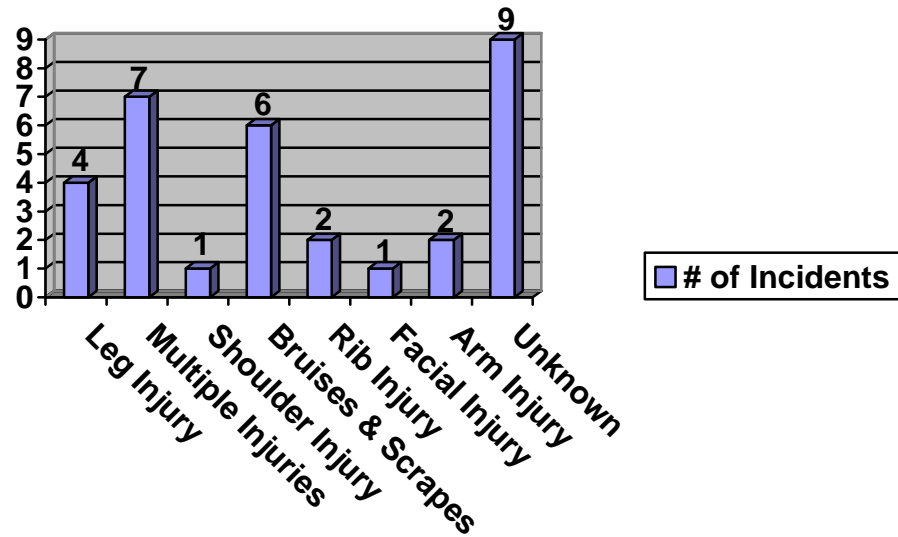
2004 All-Terrain Vehicle Incidents by Experience



2004 All-Terrain Vehicle Incidents by Engine C.C. Displacement

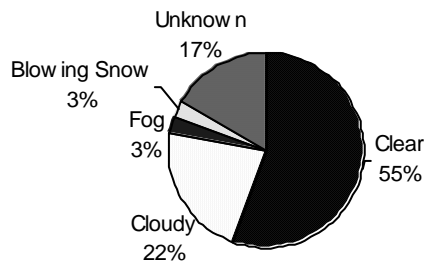


2004 All-Terrain Vehicle Incidents by Injury Type

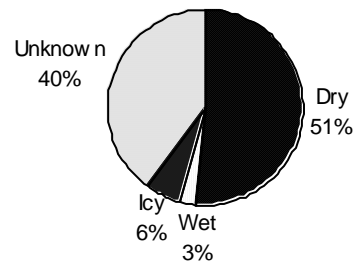


2004 All-Terrain Vehicle Incidents by Condition

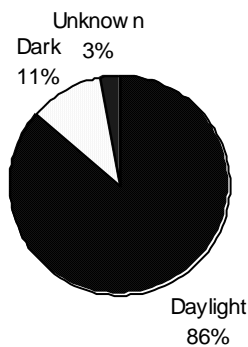
Weather Condition



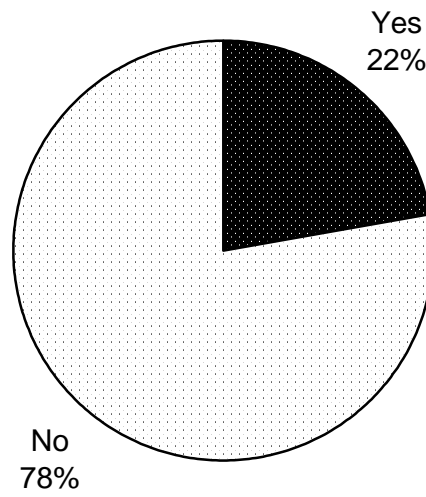
Trail/Land/Road Condition



Light Condition



2004 All-Terrain Vehicle Incidents Involving a Passenger



2004 Snowmobile Incident Summary



*Photo Courtesy of Iowa Snowmobiler Magazine

Definition of a DNR Reportable Snowmobile Incident

All of the Snowmobile statistics reflect only incidents reported to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. These statistics include those deemed a DNR reportable incident and a small number of private property incidents that were submitted to the bureau. The Iowa Department of Transportation also maintains records of such incidents but keeps separate records.

321G.10 Accident reports

If a snowmobile is involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to anyone or property damage amounting to one thousand dollars or more, either the operator or someone acting for the operator shall immediately notify the county sheriff or another law enforcement agency in the state. **If the accident occurred on public land or ice under the jurisdiction of the commission (Iowa DNR), the operator shall file with the commission a report of the accident, within seventy-two hours, containing information as the commission may require.** All other accidents shall be reported as required in section 321.266.

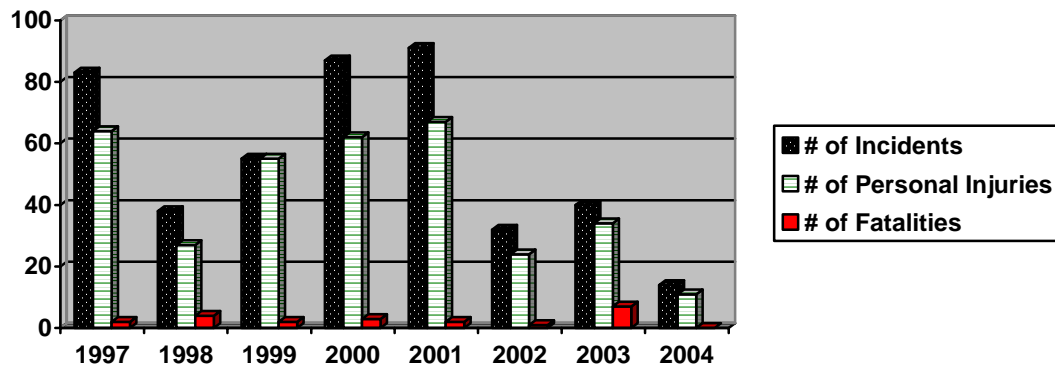
Incident Recap

As the year 2004 came to a close, we had a total of 14 incidents reported to the commission (Iowa DNR). There were 11 personal injury incidents reported and 0 fatalities. There were 394 students who took Snowmobile Education this year and 37 classes conducted. Of the 14 incidents only 21% had safety certificates. This left 58% of the operators without certification and 21% whose certification status was unknown.

The county with the most reported Snowmobile incidents this year was Johnson County with 3. Cedar and Winnebago Counties tied for second with 2 reported incidents. The leading cause of incidents in Iowa again this year was hitting a fixed object. The most common injuries multiple injuries followed by arm and leg injuries. There were 2 known incidents involving alcohol this year.

Operators between the ages of 31 to 40 caused most of the reported incidents. That age group recorded a total of 5 incidents (36%) out of the total 14 incidents. Ages 21 to 30 recorded a total of 4 incidents (29%) and ages 41 to 50 recorded a total of 2 incidents (14%).

Snowmobile Incidents 1997 – 2004

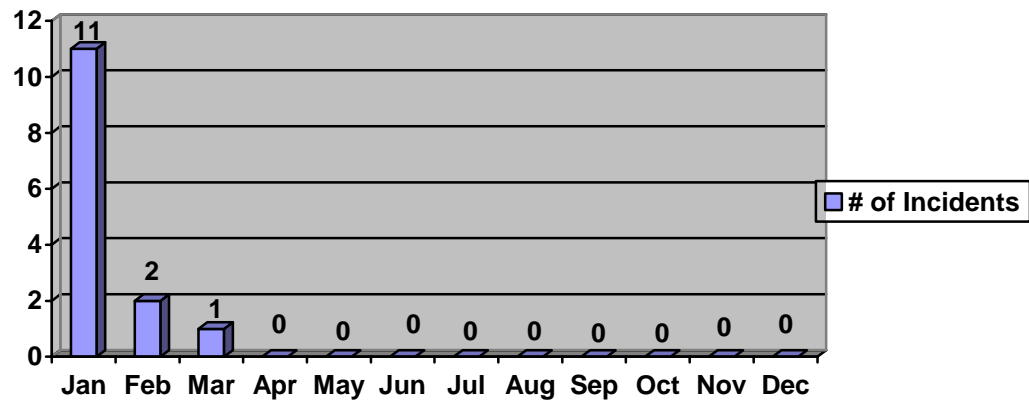


Year	# of Incidents	# of Personal Injuries	# of Fatalities
1997	83	64	2
1998	38	27	4
1999	55	55	2
2000	87	62	3
2001	91	67	2
2002	32	24	1
2003	40	34	7
2004	14	11	0

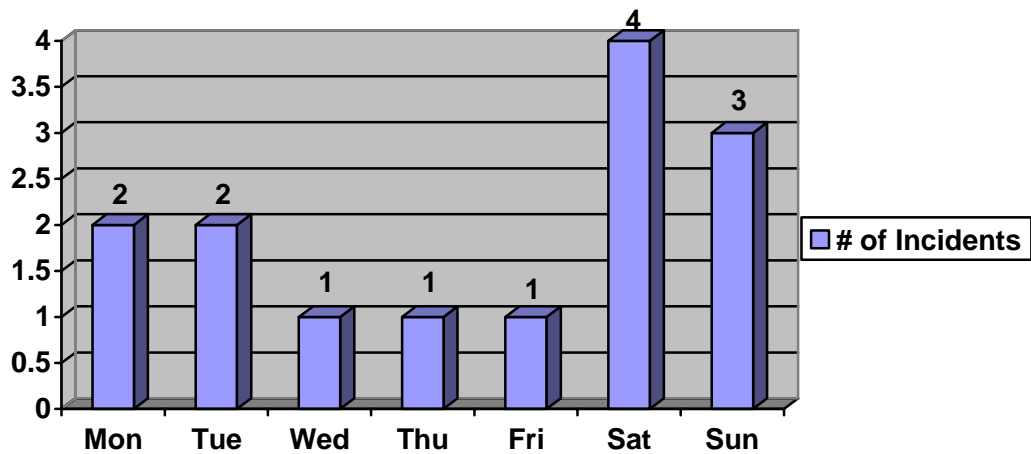
2004 Snowmobile Incidents by County

County	# of Incidents	County	# of Incidents
Benton	1	Johnson	3
Carroll	1	Linn	1
Cedar	2	Lucas	1
Delaware	1	Mitchell	1
Dickinson	1	Winnebago	2
Total	14		

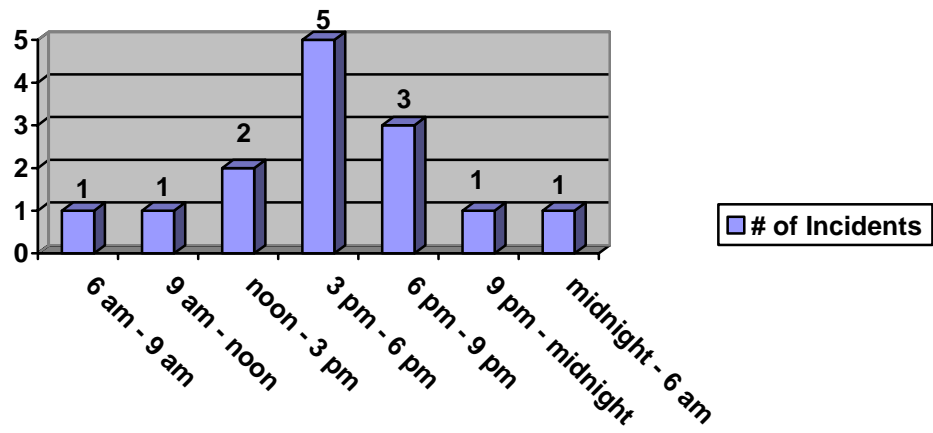
2004 Snowmobile Incidents by Month



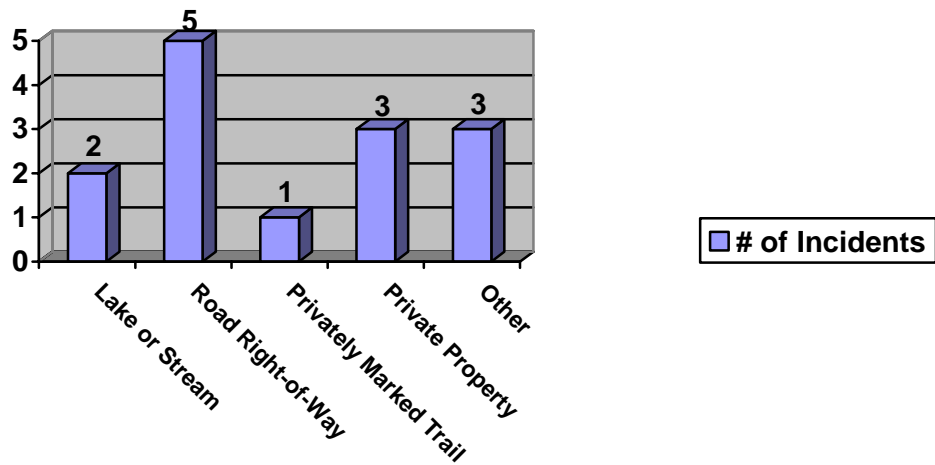
2004 Snowmobile Incidents by Day



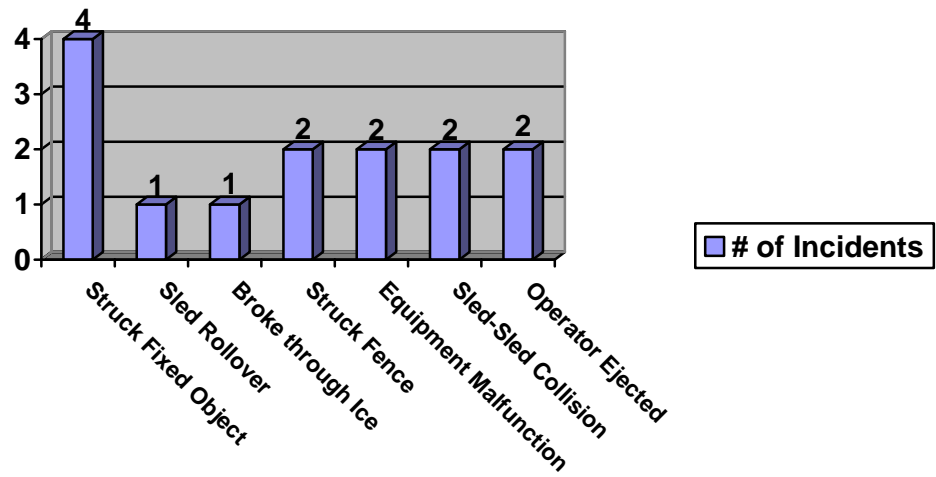
2004 Snowmobile Incidents by Time of Day



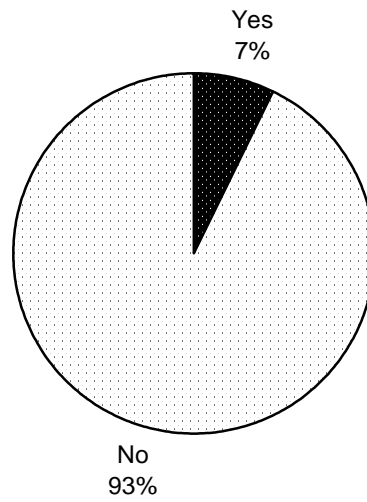
2004 Snowmobile Incidents by Terrain Type



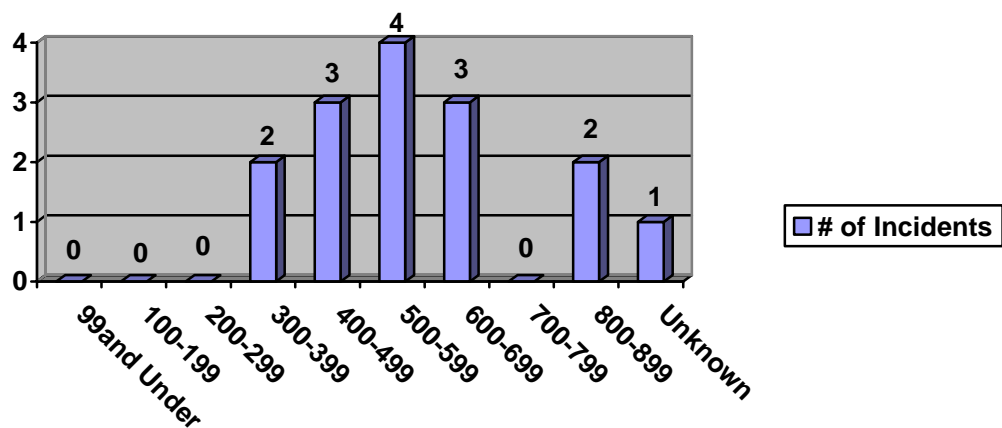
2004 Snowmobile Incidents by Type



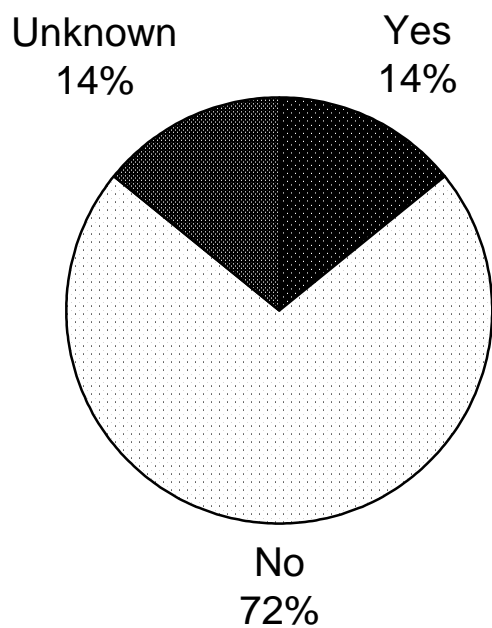
2004 Snowmobile Incidents Involving Passengers



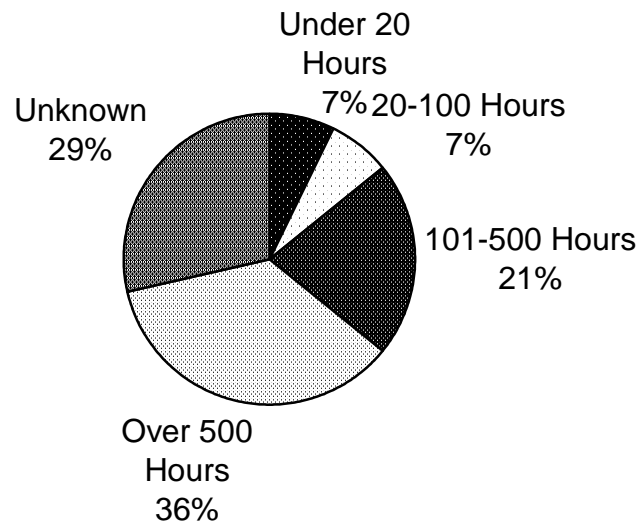
2004 Snowmobile Incidents by Engine C.C. Displacement



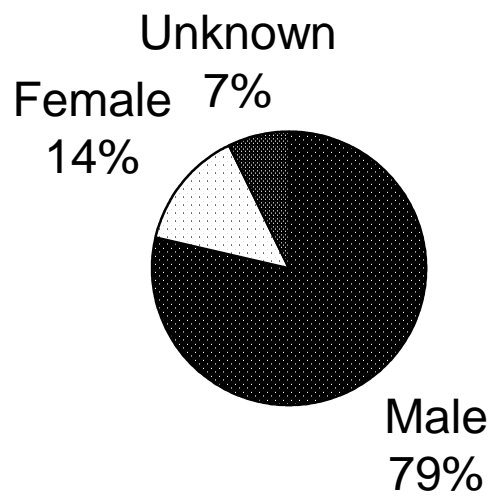
2004 Snowmobile Incidents Vs. Alcohol Involved



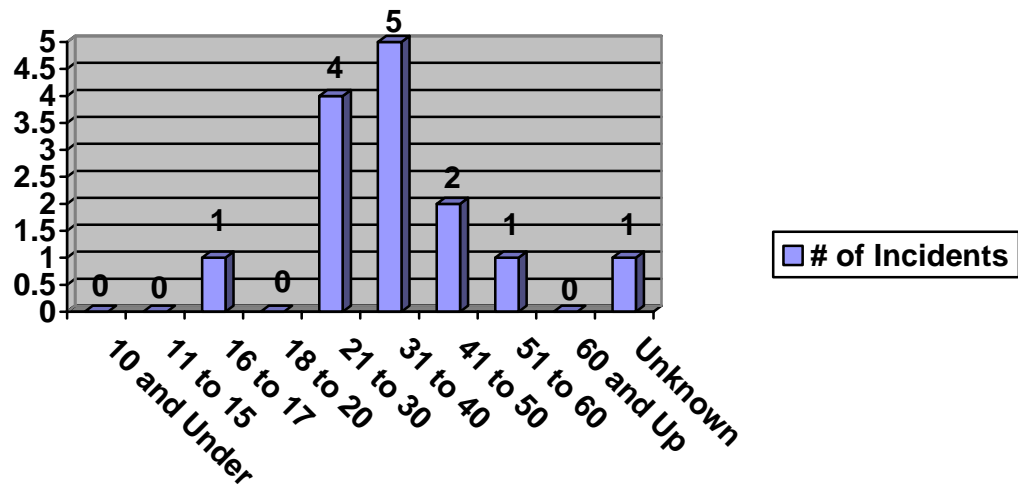
2004 Snowmobile Incidents by Operator's Experience



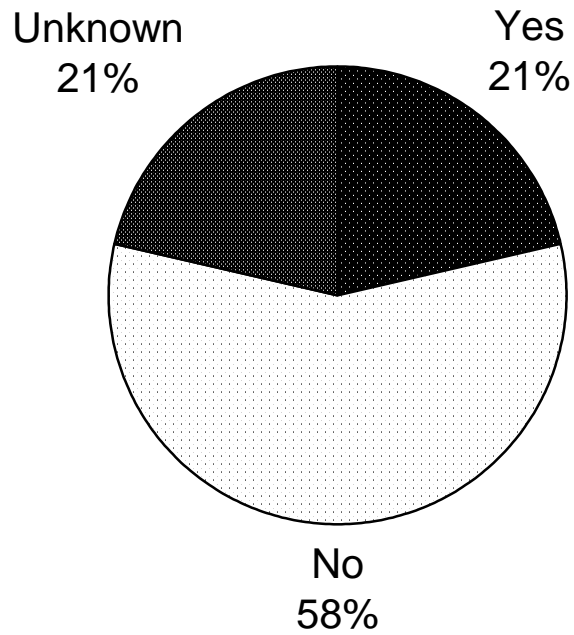
2004 Snowmobile Incidents by Gender



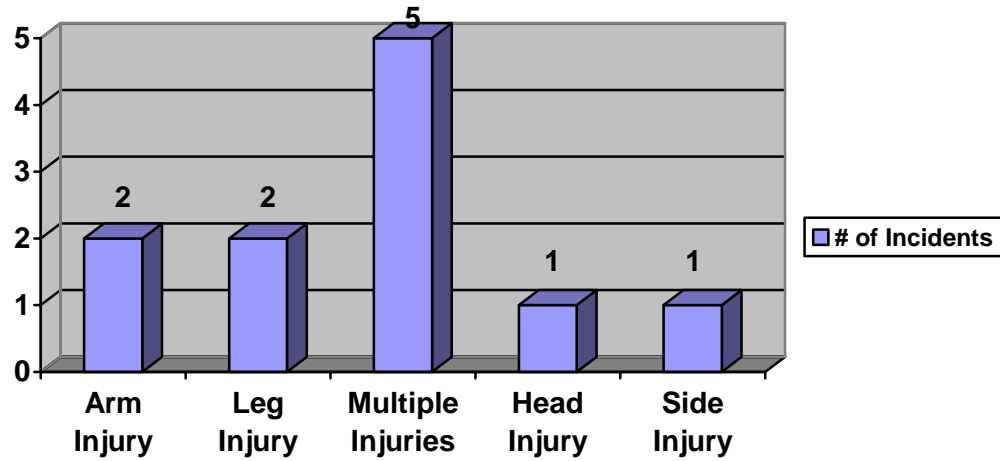
2004 Snowmobile Incidents by Operator's Age



2004 Snowmobile Incidents by Safety Certificates

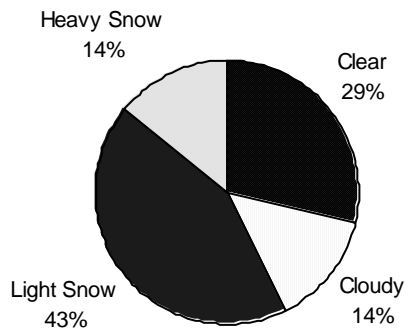


2004 Snowmobile Incidents by Injury Type

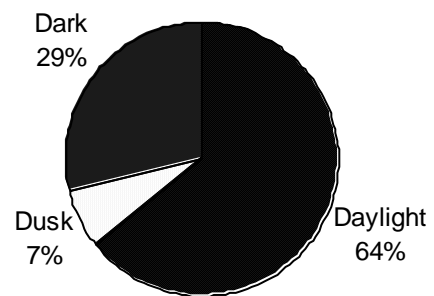


2004 Snowmobile Incidents by Condition

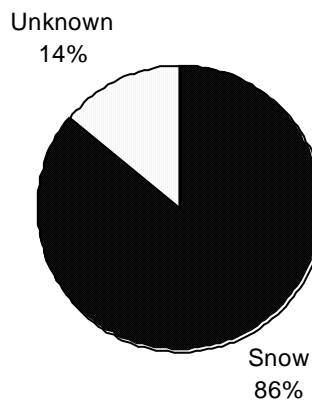
Weather



Light Conditions



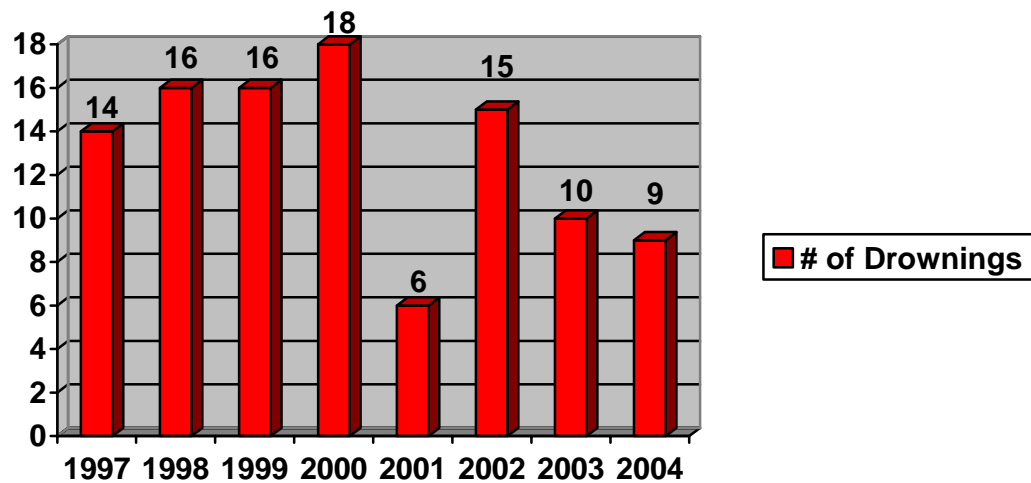
Trail/Land/Road Condition



2004 Drowning Incident Summary



1997 – 2004 Drowning Incidents



2004 Drowning Incident Summary

Date of Drowning: 1/17/2004	Activity Engaged In: Driving Vehicle on Ice
PFD Used: No	County of Incident: Cerro Gordo
Body of Water: Clear Lake	Description of Incident: Went through ice on way to ice fish
Alcohol Involved: No	Age of Victim: 42
Date of Drowning: 1/25/2004	Activity Engaged In: Walking
PFD Used: No	County of Incident: Chickasaw
Body of Water: Private Pond	Description of Incident: Suffered head injury earlier that week, wandered off from home
Alcohol Involved: No	Age of Victim: 54
Date of Drowning: 3/22/2004	Activity Engaged In: Suicide
PFD Used: No	County of Incident: Lee
Body of Water: Mississippi River	Description of Incident: Suicide by drowning
Alcohol Involved: No	Age of Victim: 57
Date of Drowning: 4/27/2004	Activity Engaged In: Fishing
PFD Used: No	County of Incident: Harrison
Body of Water: Desoto Bend	Description of Incident: Fell out of boat could not swim
Alcohol Involved: Unknown	Age of Victim: 57
Date of Drowning: 5/28/2004	Activity Engaged In: Fishing
PFD Used: No	County of Incident: Wayne
Body of Water: Bob White Lake	Description of Incident: Boat capsized could not swim
Alcohol Involved: No	Age of Victim: 37
Date of Drowning: 6/13/2004	Activity Engaged In: Swimming
PFD Used: No	County of Incident: Jasper
Body of Water: Rock Creek Lake	Description of Incident: Children swimming alone in water, when group looked up female was gone, not sure if she was in water at the time
Alcohol Involved: No	Age of Victim: 4
Date of Drowning: 6/18/2004	Activity Engaged In: Boating
PFD Used: No	County of Incident: Cerro Gordo
Body of Water: Winnebago River	Description of Incident: Was canoeing alone along river, has recently discontinued taking his medication, how victim drowned is unknown
Date of Drowning: 7/11/2004	Activity Engaged In: Fishing
PFD Used: No	County of Incident: Dickinson
Body of Water: Silver Lake	Description of Incident: Consumed large amount of alcohol, how victim drowned is unknown
Alcohol Involved: Yes (BAC .256)	Age of Victim: 67
Date of Drowning: 9/14/2004	Activity Engaged In: Boating
PFD Used: No	County of Incident: Union
Body of Water: Sun Valley Lake	Description of Incident: Boat ran out of gas, victim attempted to swim to shore, got tangled in coon tail weeds
Alcohol Involved: Unknown	Age of Victim: 23

2003 National Boating Incident Statistics

The 2003 national boating incident statistics have been released. There were 5,438 boating incidents reported for the year. Boating fatalities numbered 703 and decreased from 750 in 2002 – a difference of 47 lives. Nearly 80% of these fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not received boating safety instruction, a figure that has been consistent in previous years. Of the 703 boating deaths that occurred in 2003, 27 were children aged 12 and under. Approximately 70% of the adult deaths and 60 % of the child deaths were a result of drowning in 2003. It is reported that 86% of these drowning victims were not wearing their personal floatation devices (PFDs) or lifejackets. Alcohol was involved in 31% of all boating fatalities.

The non-fatal boating incidents resulted in 3,888 injuries and accounted for \$40,422,374 in property damage. The most reported type of incident was a collision with another vessel. The most common types of boats involved in reported incidents were open motorboats (42%), personal watercraft (PWC) 27%, and cabin motorboats (14%). Less frequent were incidents involving canoes/kayaks, pontoon boats and rowboats.

The five major types of boating incidents were collision with a vessel, collision with a fixed object, capsizing, fall overboard and skier mishap. Overall, the major causes of boating incidents, in order of prevalence, were:

- 1) Operator inattention
- 2) Carelessness/reckless operation
- 3) Operator inexperience
- 4) Excessive speed
- 5) Hazardous waters
- 6) Passenger/skier behavior
- 7) No proper lookout
- 8) Alcohol use
- 9) Machinery system failure
- 10) Rules of the road infraction



2004 Boating Incident Recap

As the year 2004 came to a close we had 46 total boating incidents. There were 35 personal injury incidents reported, 5 fatalities and 30% of the 46 total incidents involved PWC's. Reported property damage for the year totaled approximately \$250,000. During 2004 there were 1,468 (849 on-line) students certified and 20 classes conducted by the Department of Natural Resources.

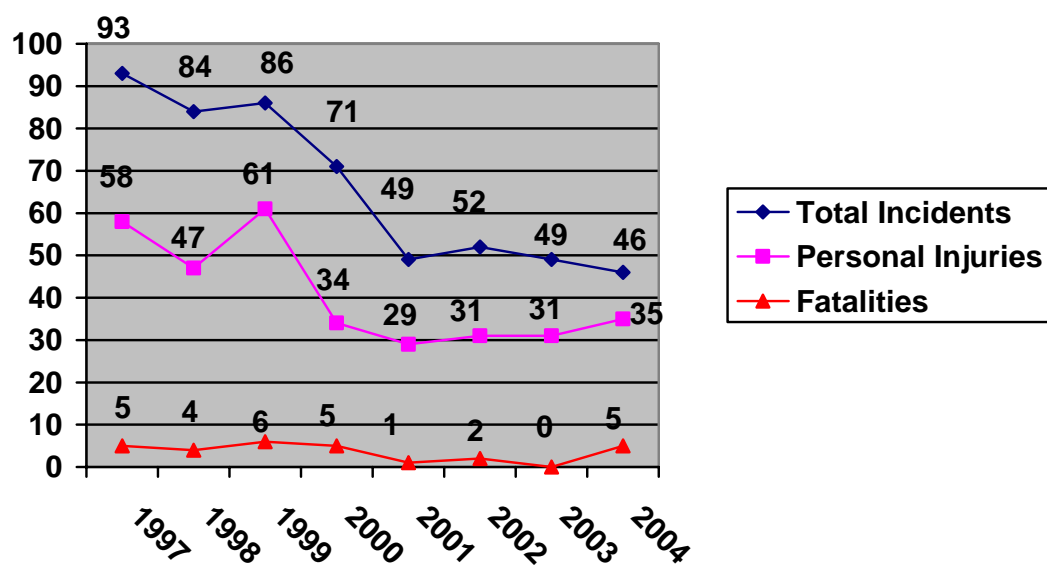
Most of the reported incidents occurred on Iowa's popular lakes and rivers. There were 11 incidents on Saylorville Lake followed by 10 incidents on the Mississippi River and 7 incidents on East Lake Okoboji. The leading cause of boating incidents this year was again collision of two boats. The most common types of injuries were abrasions and lacerations and 22% of the total incidents involved alcohol.

Operators between the ages of 21 and 30 caused most of the reported incidents. That age group contained 20 operators (31%) of the 64 total operators involved in incidents this year. Operators between the ages of 41 and 50 contained 13 operators (20%) and operators between the ages of 31 and 40 contained 11 operators (17%). Out of all the incidents, only 9% had completed a boater safety course. This leaves 77% of the operators who were not certified and 14% whose certification status was unknown.

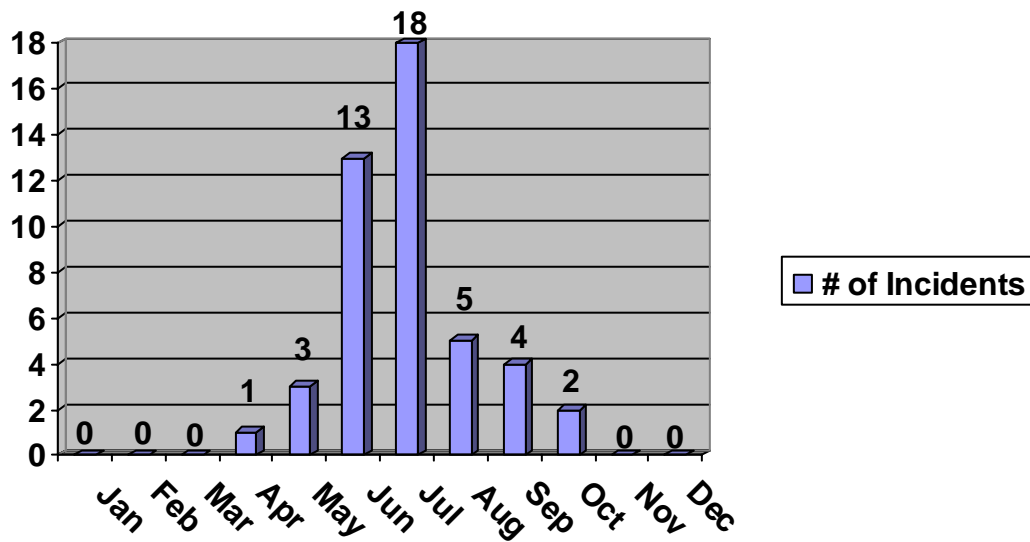


Boating Incidents 1983 – 2004

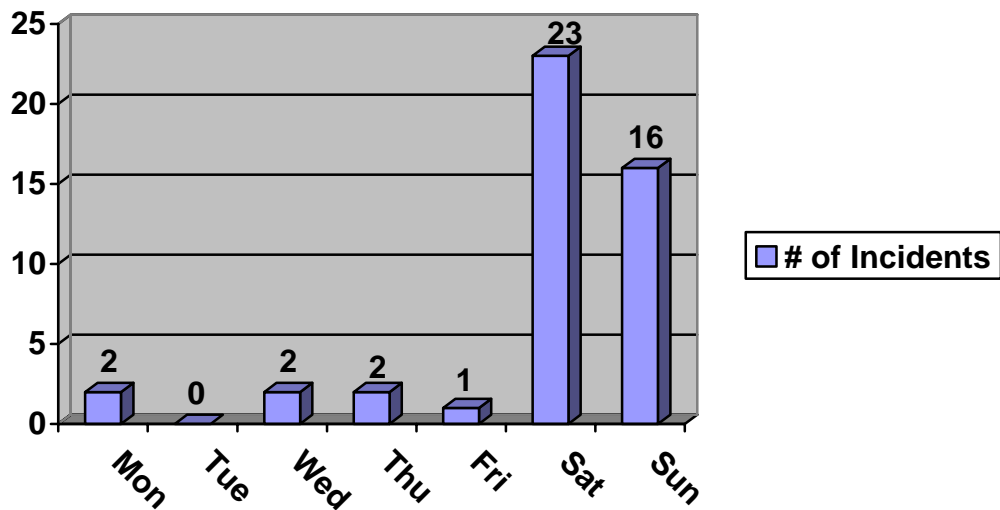
Year	# of Reported Accidents	Fatalities	Injuries	% of Total Accidents Which Involved PWC's
1983	52	11	28	
1984	45	6	2	
1985	50	10	28	
1986	68	8	36	
1987	48	8	37	
1988	44	8	24	
1989	49	5	27	
1990	53	10	28	
1991	68	11	35	
1992	62	11	25	
1993	57	5	38	
1994	89	6	63	29%
1995	83	8	54	49%
1996	81	10	60	48%
1997	93	5	58	44%
1998	84	4	47	40%
1999	86	6	61	35%
2000	71	5	34	44%
2001	49	1	29	39%
2002	52	2	31	19%
2003	49	0	31	30%
2004	46	5	35	30%



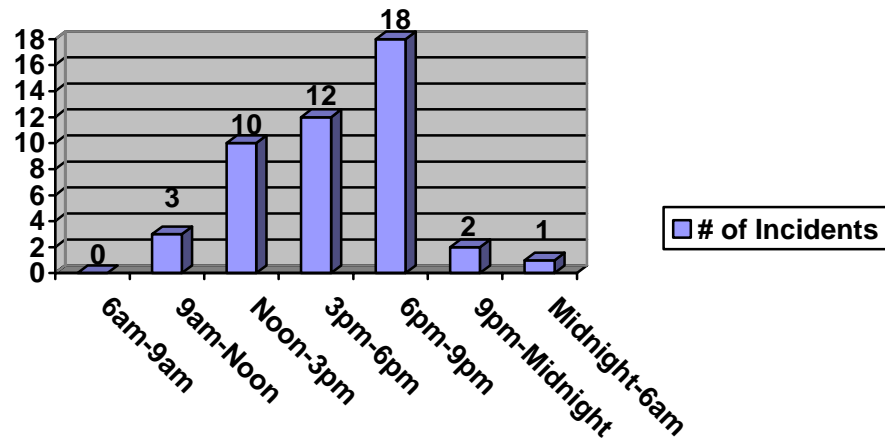
2004 Boating Incidents by Month



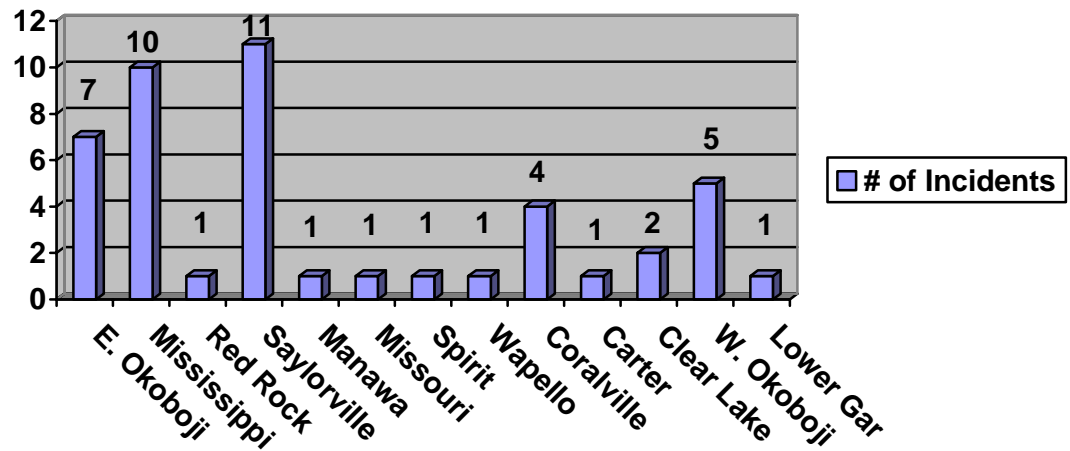
2004 Boating Incidents by Day of Week



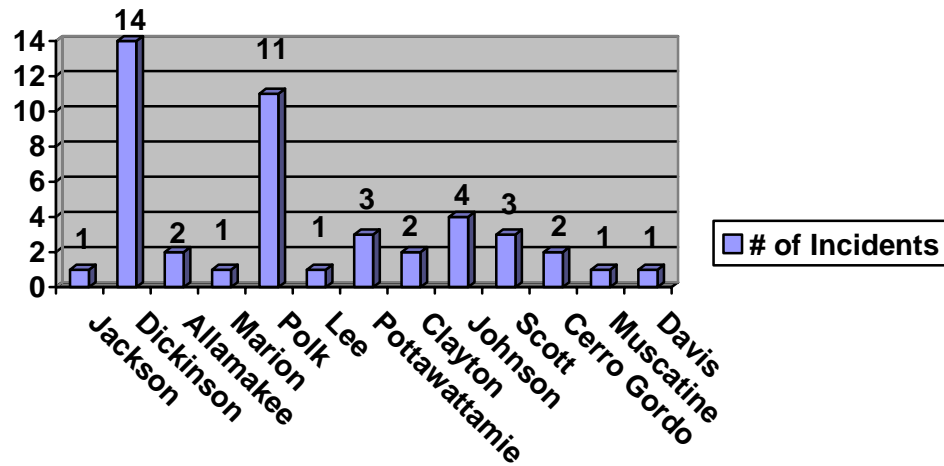
2004 Boating Incident by Time of Day



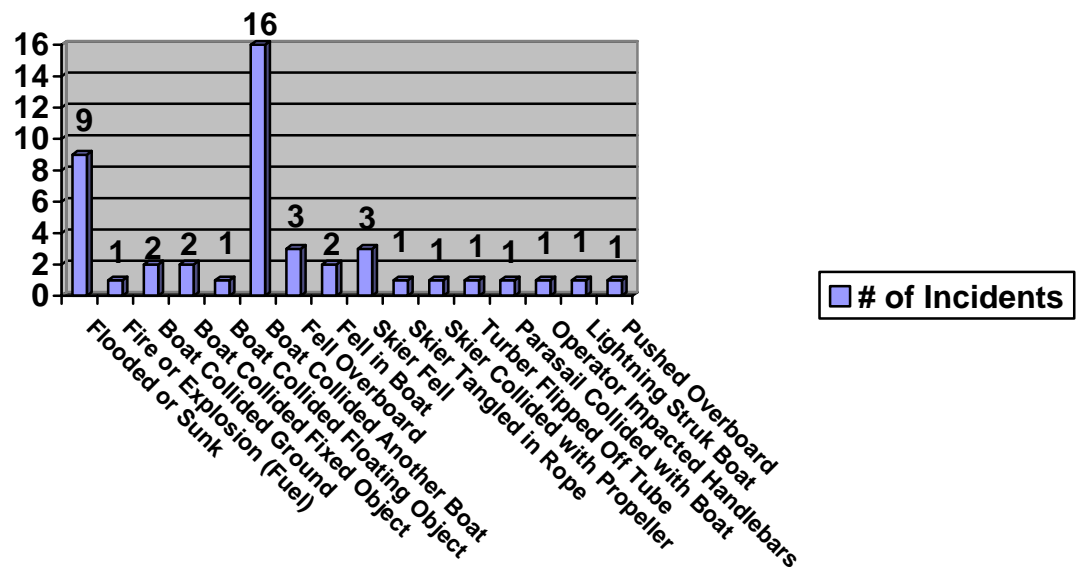
2004 Boating Incidents by Body of Water



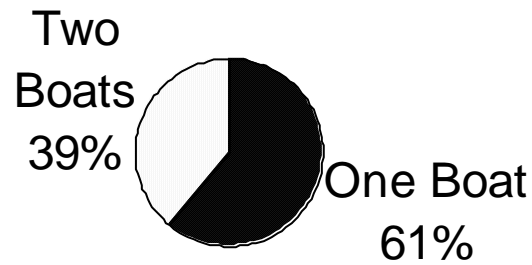
2004 Boating Incidents by County



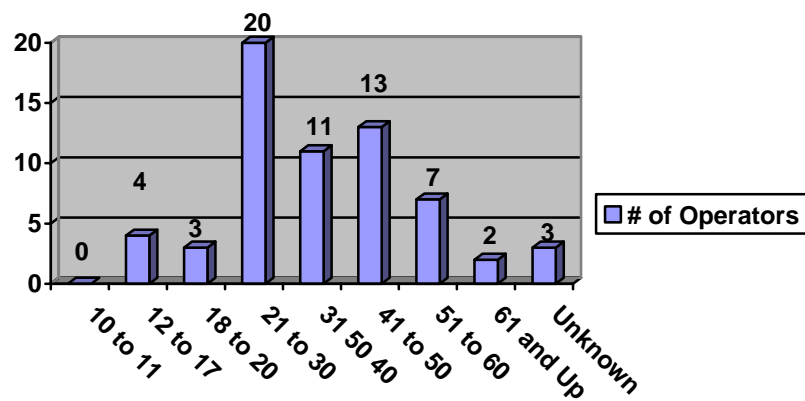
2004 Boating Incidents by Type of Incident



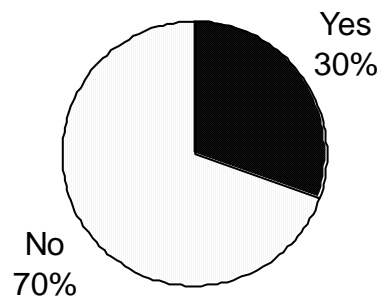
2004 Boating Incidents by Number of Boats Involved



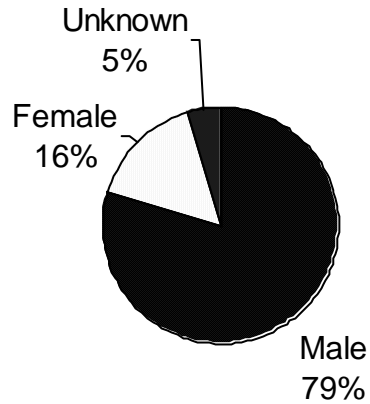
2004 Boating Incidents by Age of Operator



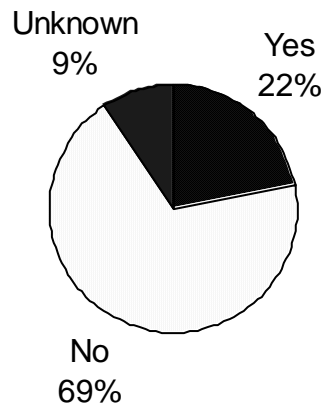
2004 Boating Incidents Involving a PWC



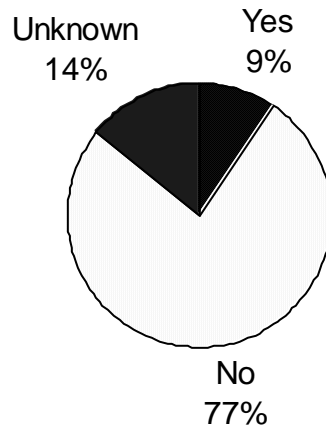
2004 Boating Incidents by Gender



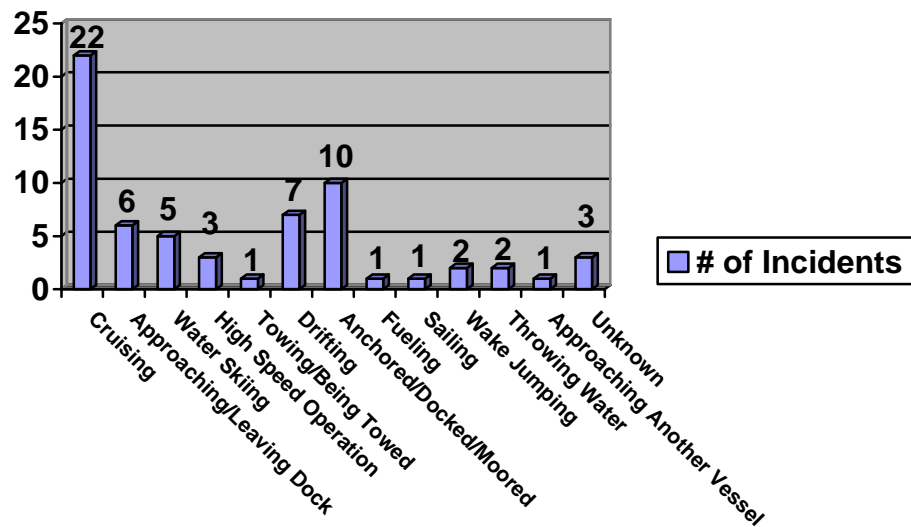
2004 Boating Incidents Involving Alcohol



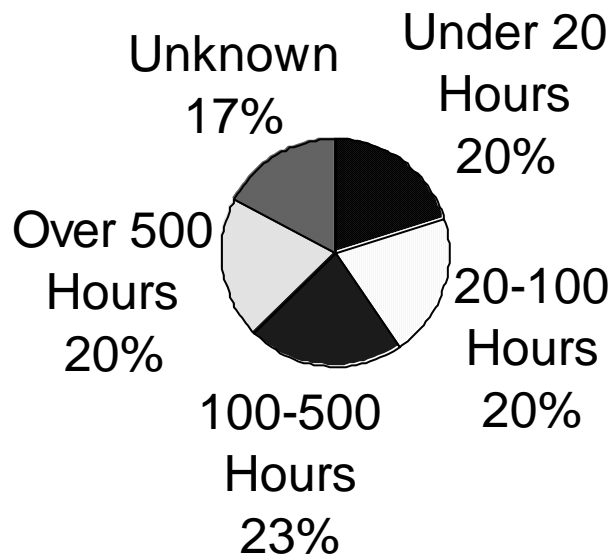
2004 Boating Incidents by Safety Certificate



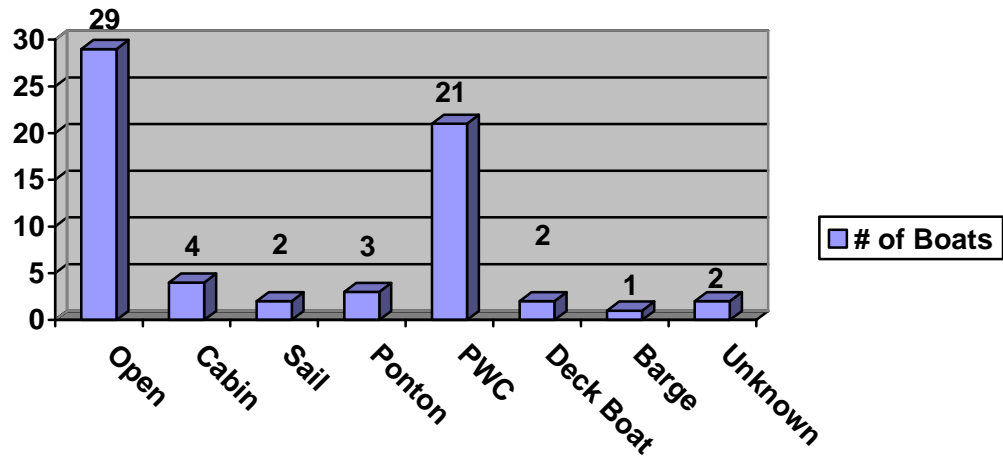
2004 Boating Incidents by Operation at Time of Incident



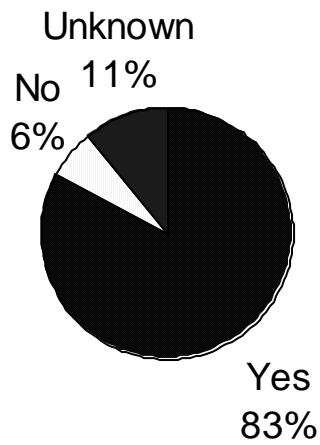
2004 Boating Incidents by Operator's Experience



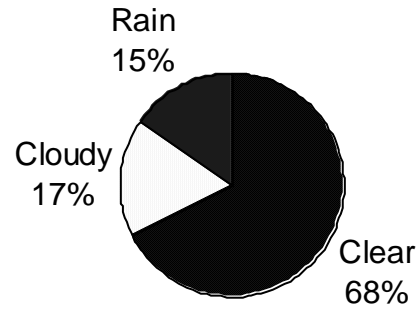
2004 Boating Incidents by Type of Boat



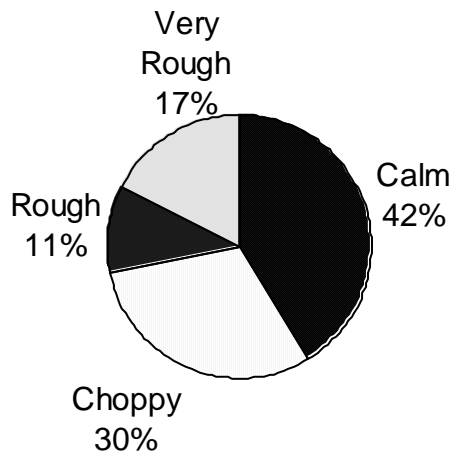
2004 Boating Incidents by PFDs Requirement Met



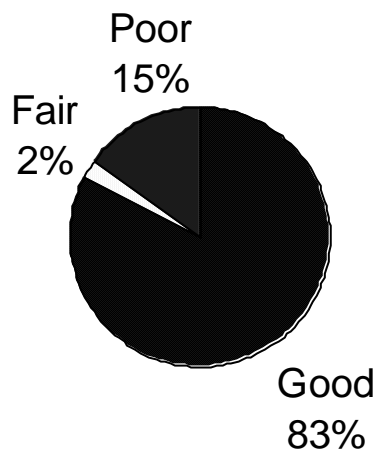
2004 Boating Incidents by Weather



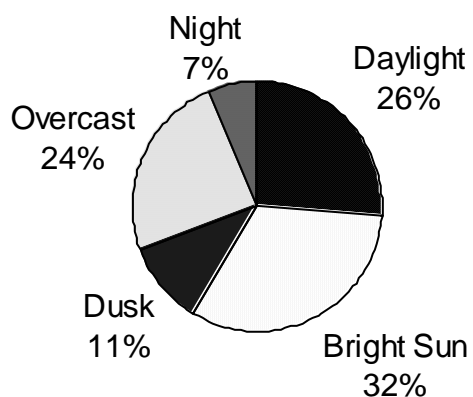
2004 Boating Incidents by Water Conditions



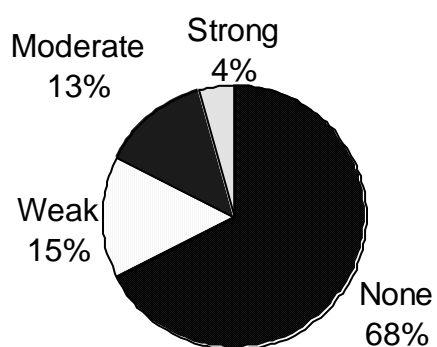
2004 Boating Incidents by Visibility



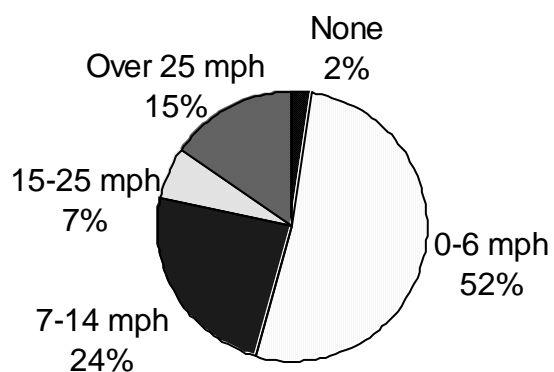
2004 Boating Incidents by Light Conditions



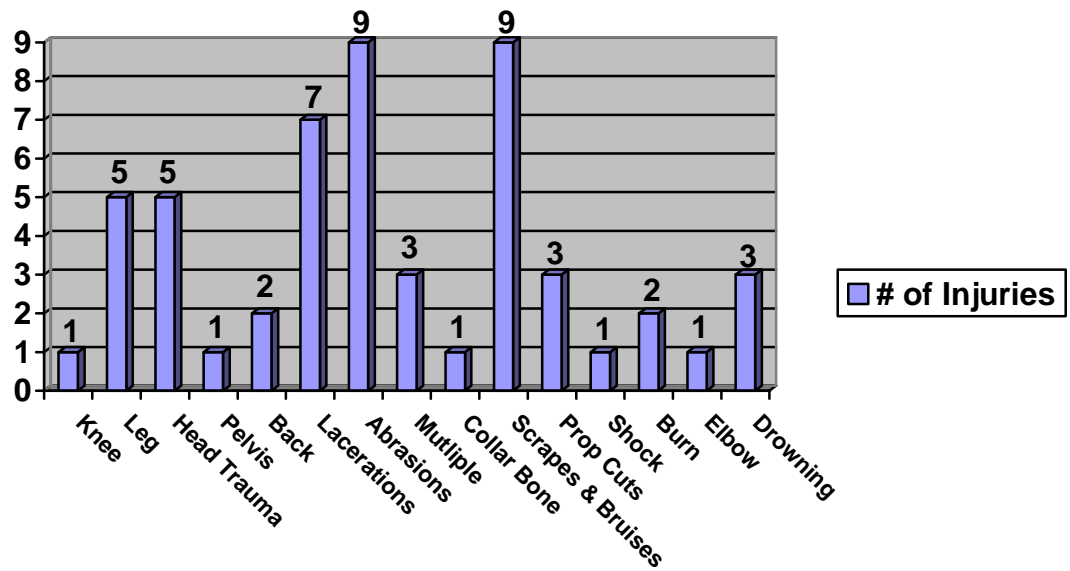
2004 Boating Incidents by Current



2004 Boating Incidents by Wind



2004 Boating Incidents by Type of Injury



Enjoy Iowa's Great Outdoors Responsibly!

